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⇒BOOK⇨NOTICES.⇨

WICKES' TREATISE ON HEBREW ACCENTUATION.*

This is really a continuation of a work published by the same author in 1881, on the accentuation of the three so-called poetical books of the Old Testament. The writer began with the poetical books, partly because the ground to be covered would be less, and partly also because these books stood in greater need of treatment. In the work before us Mr. Wickes has employed a truly scientific method. No pains have been spared to make the treatment full and accurate. It is not too much to say that no work of an equally conscientious or valuable character, has ever before been done on this subject. The MSS. in all the principal libraries have been collated, a work in itself of great magnitude.

His presentation of the purposes of the accents is excellent. The distinction made and carried out so rigidly between logical and syntactical pauses makes very simple what, at least to beginners, has always been obscure. No one can now doubt either (1) that the purpose was to draw out the sense and impress it on the minds of readers and hearers; or (2) that the *meaning* thus drawn out is only the traditional meaning, and consequently to be disregarded when satisfactory arguments may be presented.

Perhaps most interesting will be found the author's arguments for the later date of the Babylonian system of punctuation as compared with the Palestinian. His conclusion that the Babylonian is but an attempt to simplify and introduce regularity into the older system is well-founded and will be generally accepted.

What he gives us in reference to the original musical force of the accents, though meagre, is more definite than anything which has been before published. The highest melodies were represented by Pāzēr, T'lišā, Gérēs; the medium, by Zārqa (S'ghōltā), R'bhî(ă)', L'gharmê, T'bhîr; the lowest, by Paštā, Zāqēph, Tīph-ḥā, 'Athnāḥ and Sīllûq. The distinction of Emperors, Kings, Counts, etc., is justly claimed to be fanciful and misleading. It is a distinction originated by early Christian writers, and is not found in Jewish grammars. Chapter III. takes up the general question of the *dichotomy*, which lies at the basis of the whole system. Its origin is explained to have arisen in connection with the poetical parts of the Pentateuch, e. g., Exod. xv.; Deut. xxxii. First applied to these according to the principles of Hebrew poetry, it afterwards spread to the prose portions. Adopting as a law, that the main dichotomy should always be found where the main logical pause would require it, he proceeds to classify under seven heads the variations to this law. Variations may be satisfactorily explained as due, e. g., to an effort to secure rhetorical effect, to mark special emphasis, or to present a peculiar interpretation. The cases cited are generally well-chosen. Occasionally,

* A TREATISE ON THE ACCENTUATION OF THE TWENTY-ONE SO-CALLED PROSE BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT, WITH A FACSIMILE OF A PAGE OF THE CODEX ASSIGNED TO BEN-ASHER, IN ALEPPO. By Wm. Wickes, D. D. Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1887. New York: Macmillan & Co. Price, \$1.75

however, a text will be found which does not seem to support the author's view. Chapter IV. treats of syntactical dichotomy. The laws for the accentuation of the subject, the object, adverbs, prepositional phrases, the vocative, the verb, the predicate in nominal sentences, and conjunctions, under different circumstances, are given with their deviations. In Chapter V., the treatment of Sillûq, the presentation is something like this: The main dichotomy may come on the first word before Sillûq and be marked by Tîphhâ or 'Athnâh, the former being most common (Gen. II. 1; Isa. XXXVI. 1); on the *second* word, marked by 'Athnâh or Tîphhâ (for the latter, Gen. I. 13; Exod. XV. 18); on the *third* or *fourth* word, marked by 'Athnâh or Zâqêph; on the *fifth* word, always marked by 'Athnâh. The succeeding chapters take up the consecution of 'Athnâh, Zâqêph, and the remaining accents.

An interesting feature of the work is the list of texts, corrected by the rules laid down, in connection with each section. Nor are these corrections the work of conjecture. Not only do they, as thus amended, accord with the laws deduced, but in nearly every case MS. authority is found to corroborate the emendation. The arguments by which S'gholtâ is shown to be subordinate to 'Athnâh, and the proof that it is but a substitute under certain definite circumstances for Zâqêph are, taken together, convincing and conclusive.

It has been attempted to give a notice of the contents and spirit of this book. Further details cannot be added. Criticism, while on some points possible, is hardly gracious, in view of the great flood of light which our author, by his painstaking labors, has shed upon the subject of the accents. It is sufficient to say of this volume what Professor Driver has said of the first: "A more lucid or masterly exposition of a complicated subject could scarcely be imagined."

W. R. HARPER.

DELITZSCH'S ASSYRISCHES WOERTERBUCH.*

The first *Lieferung* of Delitzsch's *Assyrisches Woerterbuch* has at last made its appearance to the great delight of all Assyrian, as well as general Semitic, students. It consists of 168 large quarto pages, written in Delitzsch's characteristically plain hand. These pages carry us from א to אֲרָר. In his preface, the author states that he hopes to finish this work in ten such *Lieferungen* of 160 pp. each, i. e. in all, 1600 pp.

The author has compiled his lexicon in strict concordance with the rules laid down in his *Prolegomena*. These are in brief, 1) the explanation of the Assyrian by means of the Assyrian, references to be made to the other Semitic languages only when necessary to bring out the meaning more clearly, or for the sake of comparison; 2) the arrangement of the stems alphabetically and the placing of all derivatives under their respective stems; 3) the separation of the Proper Nouns from the lexicon proper; 4) the separation of the most important notes from those of less importance and from mere theories. The former are in

* ASSYRISCHES WOERTERBUCH ZUR GESAMMTEN BISHER VEROEFFENTLICHTEN KEILSCHRIFT-LITERATUR UNTER BERUECKSICHTIGUNG ZAHLREICHER UNVEROEFFENTLICHTER TEXTE VON Dr. Friedrich Delitzsch, Prof. ord. hon. für Assyriologie und Semitische Sprachen an der Universität Leipzig. Erste Lieferung. Leipzig: J. C. Hinrich'sche Buchhandlung, 1887. 4to. 168 pp. M.30